

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 15 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for reciting open-ended ranges. Applicants respectfully traverse, as the Examiner has not cited any basis upon which his objection is supported. The terms "at least" and "greater than" set basic values upon which the rest of the range can be determined. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 19-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Bunz. Claims 14-16 were rejected for allegedly being obvious over the combination of Bunz and Pope. Claims 22, 23 and 24 were also rejected for being obvious over Bunz in view of secondary references. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is not believed that the §102(b) rejection applies to the presently pending claims and should be withdrawn.

With respect to the §103(a) rejection, it is not believed that the presently claimed invention is unpatentable over the cited references. As explained at page 2, lines 17 through page 3, line 3, the large radii in the notch base minimizes notch tensions. Thus, the notch radius at the base should be greater than 0.5 mm as claimed. This feature is not specifically taught by the cited references.

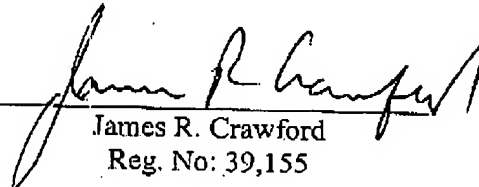
In view of the foregoing, allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any fee associated with this filing from
Deposit Account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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